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CERT All-Member Monthly Newsletter

**Craig J. Craft Commissioner** 

**JULY 2015** 

# From the desk of the Director James Kane

**CERT IS** WHAT YOU **MAKE IT** 

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The Wrap Up

Well summer is in full swing and we all need to mindful of the ever changing weather and look out for one another and keep ourselves prepared in time of need not only for us but our residents as well because at any time we may be asked to go out and assist our residents or communities in time of need.

Hurricane season has arrived once again. Cyclones, Hurricanes, and Typhoon are all the same type of disaster causing storm patterns. They are called different names depending on their location in the world, yet they are all cyclones, the generic name for these tropical and extra-tropical storms. The only differences are northern hemisphere tropical storms have a counter clockwise rotation and southern hemisphere tropical storms have a clockwise rotation. The season for such storms runs June 1st to November 30th. However this is only a general time period based on weather conditions and patterns in the Atlantic Ocean and other global areas.

I would like to thank everyone for the latest events you have attended also the "Sheltering Class" we gave with the assistance of the red cross we will be doing more advanced training this year as well. If you as cert members are looking for training please forward all ideas to Eric and myself and we will see if we can make it happen.

Have a nice summer and enjoy with you families

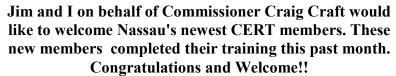
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# **CERT BASIC CLASS**









On June 24th, CERT members had the privilege of attending an Advanced Sheltering Training gearing up for Hurricane Season in case we're called upon.

# Welcome to our new Division 4 Leader Acheson Wilson:



I'm about learning by observing, and listening to more knowledgeable people... My thanks to those who have extended support and congratulations. I accept my new responsibility with the strongest desire to strengthen our CERT organization as I firmly believe in its mission for the community we may be called upon to serve."

Jim and I would like to congratulate Kenny English on his many years as the Division Leader. He will continue to be around as Acheson's deputy. Kenny as many of you know works for the Red Cross and has been very involved in several disasters that have occurred nationwide. He is a wealth of knowledge and we are very pleased that he will be staying on as a Deputy leader!

Congrats Acheson and best of luck

Jim & Eric



# **July 2015 - Upcoming Events**

July 2015									
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat			
			1	RACES 7PM & Swingtime Big Band Lakeside Theatre	Movin' Out – Billy Joel Tribute Lakeside Theatre				
5	6	7	8	9	Neil Berg 100 years of Broadway Lake side Theatre	Cher Tribute Disco Unlimited Lakeside Theater			
12	13	Happy Bastille Day!	15	Division Leaders Meeting & CERT Basic #1 Freeport	17 Ballet Showcase with the American Ballet Lakeside Theatre	18 Taylor Dayne and Alisha Lakeside Theatre			
19	20 Reach for the Stars Finals Lakeside Theater	21	22	CERT BASIC #2 FREEPORT	24 Oldies Night – The Encounters & Stan Zizka Lakeside Theatre	FRESH 102.7 Presents Fresh in the Park Lakeside Theatre			
26	27 Harry Chapin Tribute Lakeside Theater	28	29	30 CERT BASIC #3 FREEPORT	31 West Side Story Lakeside Theatre				

#### RACES/Comms Meeting - Thurs July 2nd

OEM Lecture Hall Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

## <u>Division Leaders Meeting -</u> Thurs July 16th

OEM Lecture Hall Time: 7:00 pm (1900)

# CERT Basic Class at the Freeport Rec. Center, Thursdays continues thru 8/27

Freeport Rec. Center
Time: 6:30

#### Lakeside Theatre Concert Series

Please look at the calendar above for the specific concerts which are highlighted by yellow boxes. We are looking again to have CERT volunteers hand out material prior to the start of the show and in exchange you will receive concert tickets in the VIP section for your efforts

Remember CERT will start to take requests to be at each of these concerts for Outreach 5 days prior to each show.

All Concerts are for 7pm unless listed otherwise



# **August 2015 - Upcoming Events**

August 2015									
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat			
2	3	4 CERT Table at the National Night in Westbury at Bunky Reid Park 5PM	5	6 RACES Meeting & CERT BASIC #4 FREEPORT	7 Creole Family Night Eisenhower Park	1 Eisenhower Pk Concert  8 Eisenhower Pk Concert			
9	LI Philharmonic Eisenhower Park	11 42nd Infantry Division Band Eisenhower Park	12	13 CERT BASIC #5 FREEPORT	Oldies Show Eisenhower Park	15			
16	17 Nassau Has Talent Eisenhower Park	18	19	Division Leaders 7 PM & CERT BASIC #6 FREEPORT	21 Abba Mania & Stayin' Alive Bee Gees Tribute Eisenhower Park	Joan Jett Eisenhower Park			
23	24	25	26	27 CERT BASIC #7 FREEPORT	28 Desert Highway Eagles Tribute Band Eisenhower Park	29			
National Marshmallow Toasting Day	31								

#### **CERT at the National Night Out**

August 4, at Bunky Reid Park, Westbury

## RACES/Comms Meeting - Thurs Jun. 4th

OEM Lecture Hall Time: 7:00 pm

#### **Division Leaders Meeting - Thurs June 18th**

OEM Lecture Hall Time: 7:00 pm

# CERT Basic Class at the Freeport Rec. Center, Thursdays continues thru 8/27

Freeport Rec Center Time: 6:30

PLEASE NOTE THE August 20th CLASS
IS THE FIELD TRIP WHICH WILL TAKE
PLACE IN BETHPAGE.

#### Lakeside Theatre Concert Series

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# Mangano Honors CERT's own Gilbert M. Colombo As Nassau County's Senior Citizen



Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano announced that Gilbert M. Colombo is Nassau County's 2015 Senior Citizen "Man of the Year." Mr. Colombo was presented an award at the 41st Annual May Conference in Observance of Older Americans Month on May 29th at the Milleridge Inn Cottage. The Nassau County Office for the Aging hosted 400 residents in attendance at this special event.

"It is my distinct honor Mr. Colombo as Nassau County's 2015 Senior Citizen 'Man of the Year'," said County Executive Mangano. "His dedication to public service, and to helping veterans and others in need makes him truly deserving of the recognition accorded to him."

Mr. Colombo was born in New York City, married and moved with his wife and four daughters to Old Westbury. He immediately became engaged in public service by working for the village, holding several public offices, including Mayor of Old Westbury for 10 years.

Mr. Colombo also managed his father's envelope supply business for many years. Upon his retirement at the age of 76, he began volunteering at his church's Food Pantry and Visitation program, visiting the homebound and needy, and helping them to access services. Mr. Colombo works with veterans, arranging transportation to VA Medical Centers, and spending a few days a month delivering Meals on Wheels for the Visiting Nurse Association when the regular drivers are not available.

Mr. Colombo is a member of the Nassau County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and an amateur mobile radio enthusiast. He logged in many hours on the radio assisting first responders during Superstorm Sandy. Mr. Colombo derives his greatest satisfaction from seeing the happiness in the faces of those that he assists and knowing that their lives are made easier because of the work he has done.



# **CERT Can Take The Heat**

# Allan E. Mallenbaum



Long Island is situated in that panoptic zone: we experience both record high temperatures in the summer and extremely low temperatures in the winter. But exposure to both ends of the thermal spectrum can be deadly.

Two years ago, July brought Nassau County the longest stretch of high temperatures in twenty years. That heat wave lasted seven days of temperatures over 90 degrees, breaking the record set back in 1993. Hot sunny weather may have been great for beach concessions, ice cream vendors, and home swimming pool suppliers, but not as good for the human body.

In fact, according to BBC reports, some 1,700 people died in India during the May heat wave this year, and hospitals were overflowing with the victims.

Heatstroke, also called sunstroke or heat prostration, occurs when the body is overheated, or in technical terms, experiences "hyperthermia" – which is an internal body temperature above 105.1 degrees. This is different from a high fever since it's caused by external factors – environmental conditions – rather than the body's own internal responses.

Heatstroke is frequently accompanied by dehydration, loss of adequate body fluids. Of course there is no actual "stroke" in heatstroke because the blood flow to the brain is not damaged by bleeding or blockage. "Heat exhaustion" is a totally distinct and separate condition and will be dealt with in the next issue of the newsletter.

Heatstroke can be prevented with a few simple measures: Stay cool. Stay out of the sun. Avoid heavy exercise. Drink plenty of liquids, but avoid alcohol and caffeine. And stay out of closed cars! In one 13-year period, more than 500 children – mostly under two years – were killed by heat in parked closed cars. When the air is a very comfortable 70 degrees, a closed car can quickly reach a deadly 120 degrees in the sun! In about half of these cases, the parent supposedly "forgot" that the child was in the car!

Normally our bodies have a wonderfully effective mechanism for regulating our temperature to within a fraction of a degree. But in heatstroke, this system is overwhelmed by prolonged high temperatures and many organs and systems fail to function properly.

Some of the symptoms of heatstroke are rapid heartbeat, rapid breathing, confusion, disorientation, difficulty in walking, and even stupor or coma. The body temperature will often register above 104. Sweating may occur but is usually not present so the skin may feel dry.

This is a serious condition and requires immediate medical intervention; call for medical help at once. Treatment is most effective if started immediately. It all comes down to cooling the victim as rapidly as possible. Immersion in cool water works well. Removal to a cool environment, or at least to a shaded area, can be life-saving. Taking off excessive clothing and applying wet cloth's or a misty spray aids in the cooling process. If conscious, the victim may be given cold water to sip.

Those most vulnerable to heatstroke include infants, some disabled, and the elderly. They should have adequate, comfortable clothing, protection from sunlight, and a cool interior location.

If Nassau County experiences extended periods of over-90 heat, CERT will be prepared to assist the citizens. Eric Zausner, our Deputy Director, noted that should any type of activation be required, you will be notified in the usual manner. Meanwhile, take all appropriate measures to protect yourself from heat-stroke. Keep your body well hydrated, remain out of the sun, drink plenty of liquids while avoid-



# The Pallas Morning News

# TEENS CREATE CERTPRO APP TO TRACK VOLUNTEER HOURS DURING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

THE APP, WHICH IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT, ALSO CREATES A REAL-TIME DATA-BASE OF COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL SKILLS.

Daniil Eliseev, The Dallas Morning News | June 23, 2015

In the wake of the 2013 tornado in Moore, Okla., streams of local volunteers helped with the disaster relief effort, but federal emergency response teams were disorganized. The community also may have missed out on some federal aid because of the lack of organization.

Three North Texas seventh-graders have created an app that not only would help keep track of volunteers, but also would ensure that disaster-stricken communities get the federal aid they are entitled to.

Sahitya Senapathy from St. Mark's School of Texas, Rushil Chander from Frisco ISD's Wester Middle School, and Ashwin Koduri from Plano ISD's Rice Middle School met in an after-school math class and put together Team Protons to enter a technology competition created by the Army.

The 13-year-olds traveled to Washington, D.C., last week as 20 national finalist teams presented their projects to a board of senior Army officials.

Rushil's mom found out about the contest and put the team together.

"My mom put out an advertisement [in the class] because she's the team coach, and the three of us were the ones who responded to it," Rushil said.

They decided on the name "Team Protons," because "we think positive," Sahitya said.

The team competed in the Army's 13th annual eCybermission STEM competition. The competition was held by the Army Education Outreach Program to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) literacy and a foundation for innovative careers in science and engineering.

A national title was at stake, but the future of CERTPRO, the name of their app, is not. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team.



The team has already won \$17,000 in awards, \$5,000 of which came from the Stem-In-Action grant, which eCybermission reserves for projects whose real-world implementation show the most promise.

It's important because the number of volunteer hours put into a recovery effort plays a critical role in the amount of aid FEMA decides to send. Moore and other communities that have been struck by disasters might have received more help from the federal government if they had an accurate way to organize and record the efforts of their local volunteers.

CERTPRO also creates a real-time database of CERT members with special skills.

The teens coordinated with the Plano CERT to figure out what responders need in an app.

"At this time, the city of Plano does not have a functional method of searching for, locating, coordinating, or activating unique and/or special talents found within the ranks of our CERT members," said Plano CERT Coordinator Ron Moore.

Plano hasn't used the app in an actual crisis, but it was used in a few training exercises. Officials like the app and would like to see it eventually become an official means of organization and communication.

None of the teens had ever developed a mobile application, so all three of them spent their free time after school learning how to use the MIT App Inventor.

"We basically learned everything there is to know about that software since the beginning of last year," Rushil said.

There were a few close calls. A critical update for the App Inventor was scheduled for release a few weeks before their portfolio was due for the competition.

The app they were building in the old software wouldn't have been compatible with the new version, and a few weeks was not enough time to rebuild an app from the ground up.

Most seventh-graders would call it quits at that point, but not Rushil and the team. "We wrote to MIT, and they actually let us use the updated software before it was released so that we would have enough time to finish making the app."

Team Protons spent the week participating in STEM enrichment activities that led up to the final judging panel on Thursday afternoon.

"They had a great time," said Shri Chander, Rushil's mother and Team Protons' coach. "We didn't win the national title but it was a very good experience. They got to meet some of the most—senior civilian and army personnel working at military research facilities. It was amazing to see these 13-year-old boys present their project to these guys." Now that they are back from the competition, they want to get CERTPRO out of the development phase and into the hands of volunteers.





#### **CERT Director**

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

Deadline for submission of articles, photos and news for the next CERT Newsletter is:

July 20th.

#### **CERT BASIC COURSE**

THE NEXT CERT BASIC COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE ON:
JULY 16, 23,30 & AUGUST 6, 13, 20 AND 27TH
SIGN UPS ARE ONGOING—CALL THE OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

OEMCERT@NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV

(Current CERT Members may attend any class as a refresher)

